

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 31st March 2015 at 6pm in
the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

In the Chair: Councillor C Casey

In attendance: (Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews
Councillor N Bailie
Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess
Councillor S Burns
Councillor M Carr
Councillor P Clarke
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Craig
Councillor L Devlin
Councillor G Donnelly
Councillor S Doran
Councillor S Ennis
Councillor C Enright
Councillor G Fitzpatrick
Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte
Councillor H Harvey
Councillor T Hearty
Councillor D Hyland
Councillor L Kimmins
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor K Loughran
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor K McAteer
Councillor C McGrath
Councillor H McKee
Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor P Ó'Gribín
Councillor B Ó'Muirí
Councillor B Quinn
Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane
Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor
Councillor JJ Tinnelly
Councillor W Walker

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning & Performance
(Deputy Chief Executive)
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory & Technical Services
Mr J McBride, Change Manager
Ms C Miskelly, Head of Human Resources
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs A Murray, PA to Chief Executive
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs S Kieran, Democratic Services Officer

C1/2015

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

An apology was received from Councillor Curran.

The Presiding Councillor, Councillor Casey advised he would Chair the meeting for proceedings up to item 14 on the agenda. He said he had been honoured to serve as Presiding Councillor for the first year of the Council.

Councillor Craig thanked the Chief Executive and Mr McBride for their hard work and dedication in getting the Council ready to go live on 1st April 2015.

C2/2015

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C3/2015

AGREE STANDING ORDERS

Read: Standing Orders for operation of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (**Copy circulated**)

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor T Hearty, **SECONDED** by Councillor T Andrews to adopt the **Standing Orders** for the operation of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

C4/2015

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDING COMMITTEE STRUCTURES, COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE, SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Read: Reports on Committee Structures, Committee Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation (**Copies circulated**)

The Chief Executive outlined the governance arrangements for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council including the Committee Structures, Committee Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation and asked that these be approved.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor C Enright, **SECONDED** by Councillor P. Clarke to approve the following:

- **Committee Structures to include Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism, Strategy, Policy and Resources, Active & Healthy Communities, Regulatory & Technical Services, Planning and Audit;**
- **Committee Terms of Reference; and**
- **Scheme of Delegation for Officers**

C/5/2015

METHOD FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Chief Executive confirmed that under the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 a Qualified Majority Voting was required in relation to the Council's decision on the method for filling positions of responsibility. He advised that the default method was d'Hondt.

Councillor M Ruane proposed the approval of d'Hondt as the method for the appointment of statutory positions of responsibility. This was seconded by Councillor G Donnelly.

A recorded vote was then taken, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 39
AGAINST: 1
ABSENT: 1

The PROPOSAL was CARRIED by qualified majority vote.

Copy of recorded vote attached.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor M Ruane, **SECONDED** by Councillor G Donnelly to approve d'Hondt as the method for the appointment of statutory positions of responsibility.

C/6/2015

**APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY POSITIONS OF
RESPONSIBILITY**

The Chief Executive sought nominations for appointments by applying the d'Hondt method and the following nominations were made:

Chairperson of Council

Sinn Fein: Councillor Bailie

Deputy Chairperson of Council

SDLP: Councillor Fitzpatrick

Chairperson of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism

SDLP: Councillor Curran

Deputy Chairperson of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism

SF: Councillor Mulgrew

Chairperson of Active and Healthy Communities

SF: Councillor Kimmins

Deputy Chairperson of Active and Healthy Communities

SDLP: Councillor Devlin

Chairperson of Regulatory and Technical Services

SDLP: Councillor Andrews

Deputy Chairperson of Regulatory and Technical Services

SF: Councillor Ennis

Chairperson of Strategy, Policy and Resources

UUP: Councillor Burgess

Deputy Chairperson of Strategy Policy and Resources

UKIP: Councillor Reilly

Chairperson of Planning Committee

Independent: Councillor Tinnelly

Deputy Chairperson of Planning Committee

SF: Councillor W Clarke

Partnership Panel for NI - 4 year term

SDLP: Councillor Curran

NI Housing Executive – 4 year term

SF: Councillor Casey

Reserve Forces & Cadets Association – 4 year term

ALL: Councillor Brown

Arc21 – 3 positions – 4 year term

SF: Councillor Burns

SDLP: Councillor Andrews

DUP: Councillor Craig

Policing and Community Safety Partnership – 10 positions – 4 year term

SF: Councillors W Clarke, Doran, Ennis, Larkin

SDLP: Councillors Andrews, Devlin, Loughran, Quinn

UUP: Councillor Taylor

DUP: Councillor Harvey

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor T Hearty, **SECONDED** by Councillor W Clarke to approve the nominations for statutory positions of responsibility.

C/7/2015

METHOD FOR APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, Part 4 and Schedule 2 legislated for the appointment to Committees. He advised that a Qualified Majority Voting was required in relation to the Council's decision on the method for filling positions of responsibility and the default method was Quota of Greatest Remainder (QGR). He said the Council also needed to agree by a qualified majority vote the method for allocating those positions on Committees which remained after QGR had been applied at the first stage and he recommended d'Hondt be applied.

Councillor M Ruane proposed the approval of Quota of Greatest Remainder as the method for appointments to Committee, and that d'Hondt be used to fill those positions remaining after QGR had been applied at the first stage. This was seconded by Councillor T Hearty.

A recorded vote was then taken, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 40
AGAINST: 0
ABSENT: 1

The PROPOSAL was CARRIED by a qualified majority vote.

Copy of recorded vote attached.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor M Ruane, **SECONDED** by Councillor T Hearty to approve Quota of Greatest Remainder as the method for appointments to Committees, with d'Hondt being used to fill those positions remaining after QGR had been applied at first stage.

C/7/2015

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

The Chief Executive sought nominations for appointments to Committees by applying Quota of Greatest Remainder and with d'Hondt being applied to fill those positions remaining after QGR had applied at first stage.

Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism

SF(6) – Councillors Mulgrew, W Clarke, Ennis, Harte, Hearty, Ruane
SDLP (6) – Councillors Curran, Andrews, Donnelly, D McAteer, Stokes, Quinn
DUP (2) – Councillors Harvey, Hanna
UUP (1) - Councillor Burgess

Active and Healthy Communities

SF (5) – Councillors O’Muir, Burns, Doran, Harte, Kimmins
SDLP (5) – Councillors Devlin, Fitzpatrick, K McAteer, Carr, Loughran
DUP (2) – Councillors Walker, Harvey
UUP (1) – Councillor Taylor
Indp (2) – Councillors Hyland, Enright

Regulatory and Technical Services

SF (5) – Councillors O’Gribin, Casey, Doran, Harte, Ennis
SDLP (5) – Councillors Andrews, Sharvin, K McAteer, Fitzpatrick, Stokes
DUP (1) – Councillor Hanna
UUP (2) – Councillors Taylor, McKee
Alliance (1) – Councillor Brown
UKIP (1) – Councillor Reilly

Strategy Policy and Resources

SF (5) – Councillors W Clarke, O’Muir, Ruane, Kimmins, Burns
SDLP (5) – Councillors Donnelly, Carr, Quinn, McGrath, Curran
DUP (2) – Councillor Craig, Walker
UUP (1) – Councillor Burgess
Alliance (1) – Councillor Brown
UKIP (1) – Councillor Reilly

Planning

SF (4) – Councillors W Clarke, Larkin, Ruane, Harte
SDLP (4) – Councillors D McAteer, Loughran, Devlin, Murnin
DUP (1) – Councillor Craig
UUP (1) – Councillor McKee
Alliance (1) – Councillor Brown
Indp (1) – Councillor Tinnelly

Audit

SF (3) – Councillors Hearty, O’Gribin, Casey
SDLP (3) - Councillors McGrath, Sharvin, Murnin
Alliance (1) – Councillor Brown
Indp (3) – Councillors Enright, Hyland, Tinnelly

C/8/2015

**METHOD FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES
TO EXTERNAL BODIES AND ORGANISATION (EXCLUDING
STATUTORY POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY)**

Read: Report on appointment of representatives to external bodies and organisations (excluding statutory positions of responsibility) **(Copy circulated)**

The Chief Executive advised the report recommended arrangements for the proportionate allocation of members to external bodies and organisations which were agreed at Governance Committee Meeting on 10 March 2015.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor M Ruane, **SECONDED** by Councillor S Doran to approve the recommendations contained in the report to facilitate the proportionate allocation of Members to external bodies and organisations.

C/9/2015

**APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO EXTERNAL
BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS (EXCLUDING STATUTORY
POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY)**

The Chief Executive sought nominations for appointments to external bodies and organisations (excluding statutory positions of responsibility) as circulated to Members.

LAG Board

SF: Councillors Burns, W Clarke, Hearty, Mulgrew

SDLP: Councillors Andrews, Donnelly, D McAteer, Murnin

Unionist: Councillors Burgess, Harvey, Reilly

Other: Councillor Tinnelly

Warrenpoint Harbour Authority (6 nominations for 3 positions)

SF: Councillors Doran, Ennis

SDLP: Councillors Fitzpatrick, D McAteer

DUP: Councillor Hanna

UUP: Councillor McKee

Louth, Newry, Mourne and Down (LNMD) Joint Committee

SF: Councillors Hearty, Mulgrew, Ruane

SDLP: Councillors Curran, Donnelly, D McAteer

Others: Undecided

East Border Region

SF: Councillors Larkin, Ruane

SDLP: Councillors Andrews, Loughran

Others: Councillors Hyland, Reilly

NILGA

SF: Councillors Casey, Doran, O’Gribin

SDLP: Councillors Andrews, Curran, Quinn

Others: referred to Strategic Planning and Resources Committee for consideration

National Association of Councillors (NAC)

SF: Councillors Casey, W Clarke, Mulgrew

SDLP: Councillors Andrews, Carr, Curran

Others: referred to Strategic Planning and Resources Committee for consideration

Local Government Partnership on Travellers Issues

SF: Councillor Kimmins

SDLP: Councillor K McAteer

Alliance: Councillor Brown

Northern Ireland Amenity Council

SF: Councillor Harte

SDLP: Councillor Andrews

Somme Advisory Council

Councillors Burgess, Reilly – for one year 2015-2016

Councillor M Ruane proposed the ‘others’ positions on LNMD, NILGA and NAC be referred back to Committee in order that a compromise can be reached. This was seconded by Councillor W Clarke.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor M Ruane, **SECONDED** by Councillor S Doran to approve the nominations for appointments to external bodies and organisations.
It was also **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** of Councillor M Ruane, **SECONDED** by Councillor W Clarke that the ‘others’ positions on LNMD, NILGA and NAC be referred to the Strategic Planning and Resources Committee in order that a compromise can be reached.

C/10/2015

PARTY REPRESENTATIVES’ FORUM

Read: Party Representatives Forum (**Copy circulated**)

The Chief Executive referred Members to a report which had been approved at the Governance Committee Meeting on 10 March and ratified at Shadow Council Meeting 31 March 2015. He asked that Members note the Terms of Reference for the Party Representatives’ Forum.

AGREED: It was **AGREED** to **NOTE** the Terms of Reference for the **Party Representatives’ Forum**.

C/11/2015 **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR THE INCOMING YEAR**

Read: Report outlining schedule of meetings for Council and its Committee for the incoming year: - April 2015-April 2016(**Copy circulated**)

AGREED: **The Schedule of Meetings for the incoming year was AGREED.**

C/12/2015 **NOTE THE PAYMENT OF SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES**

Read: A Report on Special Responsibility Allowances(**Copy circulated**)

AGREED: **It was AGREED to NOTE payment of Special Responsibility Allowances.**

C/13/2015 **DESIGNATION OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

AGREED: **It was AGREED to approve the designation of the Chief Executive as the Chief Financial Officer of the new Council.**

C/14/2015 **THE SOMME ASSOCIATION – APPOINTMENTS TO SOMME PILGRIMAGES**

Read: **Correspondence from Somme Association extending invitations for the Council to be represented at the following Somme pilgrimages;**

- **99th anniversary from 28 June to 2 July 2015(estimated price is £580 per person)**
- **Gallipolli pilgrimage from 4th to 10th October 2015 (estimated price is £1350 per person)**

AGREED: **It was AGREED, as discussed at Party Representative's Forum to appoint the Councils two representatives on the Somme Association to attend these pilgrimages.**

C/15/2015 **CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS**

Councillor N Bailie stated she was delighted to be appointed as first Chairperson for the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and thanked Sinn Fein for entrusting her in the role and her family for their continued support and encouragement over the years. She stated it would be a privilege to represent her party in the role and she was very excited to be taking forward the baton as the Council moved into a new phase of local government.

The Chairperson expressed her appreciation to the outgoing Mayor and Chairperson respectively of Newry and Mourne Council and Down District Council for their service over the last year and their roles in the transition of the new Council arrangements.

Councillor Reilly left the meeting at this point – 6.40pm.

Councillor Bailie also thanked Councillor C Casey for Chairing the Shadow Council proceedings and all staff members who played a role in getting Council ready for the handover.

The Vice-Chairperson, Councillor G Fitzpatrick stated it was an honour and privilege to have been selected as Vice-Chairperson for the Council and said she hoped to repay the trust her party had placed in her by representing the whole community in the role. She paid tribute to Councillor C Casey and Councillor D McAteer and to the former Mayors/Chairman and Deputies and she wished everyone well for the work that lay ahead in establishing the new Council.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at **6.45pm**.

Signed:

Chairperson

Signed:

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 31 March 2015 VENUE: Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre

MEETING: AGM

SUBJECT OF VOTE: To approve d'Hondt as the method for the appointment of statutory positions of responsibility.

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	✓			
N Bailie	✓			
P Brown	✓			
R Burgess	✓			
S Burns	✓			
M Carr	✓			
C Casey	✓			
P Clarke	✓			
W Clarke	✓			
G Craig	✓			
D Curran				✓
L Devlin	✓			
G Donnelly	✓			
S Doran	✓			
S Ennis	✓			
C Enright	✓			
G Fitzpatrick	✓			
G Hanna	✓			
V Harte	✓			
H Harvey	✓			
T Hearty	✓			
D Hyland	✓			
L Kimmins	✓			
M Larkin	✓			
K Loughran	✓			
D McAteer	✓			
K McAteer	✓			
C McGrath	✓			
H McKee	✓			
R Mulgrew	✓			
M Murnin	✓			
P Ó Gribín	✓			
B Ó Muirí	✓			
B Quinn	✓			
H Reilly		✓		
M Ruane	✓			
G Sharvin	✓			
G Stokes	✓			
D Taylor	✓			
JJ Tinnelly	✓			
B Walker	✓			

TOTALS	39	1		1
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NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 31 March 2015 VENUE: Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre

MEETING: AGM

SUBJECT OF VOTE: To approve Quota of Greatest Remainder as the method for appointments to Committees, with QGR being used to fill those positions remaining after QGR had been applied at first stage

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	✓			
N Bailie	✓			
P Brown	✓			
R Burgess	✓			
S Burns	✓			
M Carr	✓			
C Casey	✓			
P Clarke	✓			
W Clarke	✓			
G Craig	✓			
D Curran				✓
L Devlin	✓			
G Donnelly	✓			
S Doran	✓			
S Ennis	✓			
C Enright	✓			
G Fitzpatrick	✓			
G Hanna	✓			
V Harte	✓			
H Harvey	✓			
T Hearty	✓			
D Hyland	✓			
L Kimmins	✓			
M Larkin	✓			
K Loughran	✓			
D McAteer	✓			
K McAteer	✓			
C McGrath	✓			
H McKee	✓			
R Mulgrew	✓			
M Murnin	✓			
P Ó Gribin	✓			
B Ó Muirí	✓			
B Quinn	✓			
H Reilly	✓			
M Ruane	✓			
G Sharvin	✓			
G Stokes	✓			
D Taylor	✓			

JJ Tinnelly	✓			
B Walker	✓			
TOTALS	40			1